

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL
HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007.

As a society, we must fight for the rights of people who seek mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Vulnerable individuals with mental illnesses continue to face numerous barriers when seeking care, and we must work together to remove these barriers especially for diverse communities.

Latinos already have lower rates of employer-sponsored health insurance and lower rates of insurance with mental health coverage.

In California, 77 percent of Latinos' mental health treatment was covered by their insurance, compared to 85 percent of Whites.

The Supplement to the Report of the Surgeon General on Mental Health found that

Latinos with mental disorders underutilize mental health services.

Fewer than 1 in 11 Latinos with a mental disorder seeks help with a mental health specialist.

We must do more to help people with mental health disorders and addiction.

I hope that mental health parity will help reduce barriers to their care, such as coverage, stigma and discrimination to mental health care.

We cannot let insurers continue to discriminate against which diagnoses should be covered and which ones are not.

We should not compromise our efforts to stop the persistent discrimination in our mental health and substance abuse health care system.

This bill is a step forward for people who suffer from mental illnesses and for their families, but we in Congress must do more to enable the millions of Americans to receive the mental health care they need and deserve.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this landmark legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2008
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Virginia colleagues FRANK WOLF and JAMES MORAN to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Two Members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Life Saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that we enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2008 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Receiving the Certificate of Valor: First Lieutenant Tyler D. Corey and Private First Class Michael W. Ittner.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

COMMENDING THE LSU COLLEGE
OF EDUCATION FOR REACHING
ITS CENTENNIAL

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Louisiana State University (LSU) College of Education for reaching its centennial.

Since its establishment, the college has prepared thousands of educational leaders, including supervisors, principals, superintendents, and university faculty and administrators.

Originally named the "Teachers' College," the LSU College of Education employed two faculty members at its founding in 1908. In 1939, the college expanded to include the School of Health & Physical Education, presently named the Department of Kinesiology. This department, initially focused on teacher education, has now expanded to include nationally and internationally recognized research and scholarship programs that generate and disseminate knowledge about all aspects of the art and science of human movement.

These days the college is a collaborative unit that prepares educational and wellness professionals. With oversight responsibilities for various professional certification programs spanning four colleges and one school, the college also oversees the K-12 University Laboratory School, which has been ranked among the nation's top 2.5 percent of public high schools by Newsweek as well as boasts the state's first international baccalaureate program.

The LSU College of Education today employs more than 200 faculty and professional staff to provide rigorous academic programs, highlighted by challenging, rich and collaborative experiences.

To celebrate the 100th birthday of the college, the LSU College of Education is hosting a series of events throughout the 2008-2009 anniversary year, including a kick-off centennial celebration, special lecture series, visiting scholars, and nationwide alumni celebrations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the LSU College of Education for reaching this landmark year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MS. KAY BEARD

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Kay Beard, Wayne County Commissioner and dedicated community advocate, upon her retirement from a distinguished 30-year career in public service.

Kay became interested in politics at an early age at the knee of her grandmother who used to host meetings of the local congressional delegation in their Detroit home. Throughout her life, Kay was active in civic and community organizations, but did not run for political office until 1972 when she launched an unsuccessful bid for State representative. Undeterred, Kay ran for Wayne County commissioner in 1976, Kay was later appointed to fill a vacancy on the Wayne County Commission in April 1978. Subsequently, Kay never failed to win another election she ran in including her most recent reelection in 2006 to her 15th term. Her 30 years on the commission made her the longest serving member ever.

While managing the daily tasks of a county commissioner, Kay gave back a tremendous amount of time and effort to her community. Kay served on the National Advisory Council for School-to-Work Opportunities, the Senior Advisory Council of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan, the United Way Community Services Board of Directors, and was a founding member of Hospices of Michigan. Her efforts did not go unnoticed by the citizens of Michigan. The Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus presented her with its highest honor, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award. She was also a recipient of the Westland ATHENA Award and in honor of her achievements has had a building on the grounds of the Eloise Psychiatric Hospital renamed the Kay Beard Building.

During her 15 terms on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, Ms. Beard has dealt with issues ranging from the termination of the drain commissioner's job, a failed smoking ban, the creation of an antifraud law, and a valiant yet unsuccessful attempt to save Wayne County General Hospital. Ms. Beard felt that spirited opposition was the touchstone of democracy. Despite displaying a vibrant spirit, Kay has been ordered by her doctor to step down for health reasons. Her loss will be felt by all the citizens of Wayne County who wish her nothing but happiness.

Madam Speaker, for 30 years Commissioner Kay Beard has faithfully served Michigan and Wayne County. As she enters the next phase of her life, she leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Commissioner Kay Beard upon her retirement and recognizing her years of loyal service to our community and country.